

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 27, 2017

The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. C.S.T., in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Also present were Auditor Kimberly K. Grow, Deputy Auditor Tina M. Porter and the Attorney that represents the Commissioners, Eric J. Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Culp.

CLAIMS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the claims, as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket for the check date equal to December 15, 2017. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Culp mentioned that December 29, 2017 will be the County's first payroll via direct deposit.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular December 4, 2017 meeting, as presented. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JAMES STRADLING / INDIAN TRAILS SKILL-UP GRANT: Mr. Stradling was present and stated that he emailed the budget for the Skill-Up grant. He said that, while meeting with the Council, he was advised to come back to the Commissioners as they would need to be the ones to make a recommendation to the Council. The application has been submitted; however, it's too late to qualify for the match money. Mr. Culp asked if the Skill-Up funds are being kept separate from other funds. Mr. Stradling replied that the funds are kept separate. Skill-Up funds are state funds. There were no further questions for Mr. Stradling.

ORDINANCE / AUDITOR TRANSFER FEE: Auditor Grow explained that the current charge is \$5.00 per deed. She is proposing that the fee be increased to \$5.00 per parcel. Attorney Beaver stated that the statute allows it to be done either way. There was no public comment. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. **Ordinance 12-27-2017A**

ORDINANCE / FOOD SERVICE / FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS: Attorney Beaver explained that this ordinance mainly has to do with modernizing several citations to Indiana State Board of Health Regulations that had changed. It also allows temporary food service permits. There are no changes in fees with the exception of a late fee that is being added for those operating on an annual food service permit that fail to apply for renewal by January 1st. There was no public comment. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. **Ordinance 12-27-2017B**

ORDINANCE / LEGAL HOLIDAYS: Attorney Beaver explained that he used the holiday schedule that the Commissioners approved for 2018 to prepare this ordinance setting out days that are observed as holidays and, going forward, the Commissioners can continue setting the holiday schedule with the dates. Mr. Culp expressed concern about being closed on the City's Election Day. No action was taken so this could be researched further.

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES: Mr. Culp explained that there are numerous factors that are used to determine boundaries. Any changes have to be made in an odd numbered year. Walker West is the largest precinct with the most voters. The Commissioners would like to split Walker West in half. He said the clerk informed them that there would not be enough time to finish the process in 2017 so they will have to wait until 2019. He said they are changing Commissioners Districts 1 and 2. Mr. Maxwell stated that there will be other changes in 2019 in regards to road miles and funding.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the new Commissioner District Boundaries. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. The new boundaries are as follows:

District 1 (James Walstra) - Keener 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Walker West

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COMMISSIONER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES CONT'D:

District 2 (Kendell Culp) – Barkley North, Barkley South, Gillam, Hanging Grove, Kankakee, Marion 7, Union North, Union South, Walker East, Wheatfield East, Wheatfield West 1, Wheatfield West 2

District 3 (Richard Maxwell) – Carpenter East, Carpenter West, Jordan, Marion 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Milroy, Newton

STACE PICKERING / REMENSCHNEIDER / DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN: Mr. Pickering stated that Main Street has been working with the City of Rensselaer on obtaining an Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant that provides the plans for the downtown revitalization. There were four or five firms interviewed before Remenschneider was selected. Mr. Ken Remenschneider and Mr. Brandon Schreeg were present to give a slideshow presentation showing the plans for the downtown area. They anticipate completion of the plan in May, 2018. They will be holding a public open house January 16, 2018. Mr. Culp asked if they will have more detailed drawings. Mr. Remenschneider replied that the effort does not include construction drawings, which will happen when the funding is in place. Remenschneider would hire the engineer, but the County and the City would collaborate on what both want from the plan. Mr. Maxwell stated that the County has plans as well and he doesn't feel that it was taken in to consideration. He said he will talk to Mr. Pickering. Mayor Wood said he would like to work together with the County and would like to see the County's plans. Mr. Ryan Musch, owner of Embers, stated that they opened their venue because they are passionate about the community and said that the revitalization plan is needed.

EMPLOYEE BONDS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the following employee bonds. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Assessor Dawn Hoffman
Auditor Kimberly Grow
Deputy Auditor Linda Armstrong
Deputy Auditor Ida Mae Winter
Deputy Auditor Donna Horner
Deputy Auditor Shannon Kellner
Deputy Auditor Barbara Robinson
Deputy Auditor Tina Porter
Clerk Vickie Bozell
Coroner Diana Boersma and Deputies
Court Reporter Wannetta Kressin
Court Reporter Terri Whitaker
Court Reporter Pat DeKock
Circuit and Superior Courts
Cheryl Eckstrom Health Department
Investigator Pat Harper
Prosecutor Christine Haskell
Recorder Beth Warren
Deputy Recorders
Sheriff Terry Risner
Surveyor Vince Urbano
Treasurer Donya Jordan
Deputy Treasurer Tammy McEwan

At this time, there was a short break.

ASSIGNMENT OF AMBULANCE CONTRACT: Nathanel Metz was present and stated that he's been the Director for Prompt Ambulance Central for six years. The original owners, Gary and Char Miller, are trying to retire. The Millers offered Mr. Metz the opportunity to start an organization and finance an asset purchase from Prompt Ambulance Central. As part of the closing agreement, the Millers have agreed to stay for three years.

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ASSIGNMENT OF AMBULANCE CONTRACT CONT'D: Mr. Metz stated that he is also purchasing the name, Prompt Ambulance Central, but the official company name will be Phoenix Paramedic Services LLC. The operating systems, equipment and staff will all be transferred to Phoenix. They were hopeful the closing would take place prior to January 1, 2018, but are now looking at the end of the first week of January. Attorney Beaver stated that his concern was that the assignee would be an unrelated third party, but after Mr. Metz's explanation he has no problems with the Commissioners signing the assignment. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the signing of the addendum to the ambulance contract. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REGINA COULTER / COMPENSATION TIME EXTENSION: Ms. Coulter submitted a request to extend thirty-two hours of compensation time. At the December 4, 2017 meeting, motion was made and seconded for the approval of a thirty day extension for eight hours of compensation time. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the extension of thirty-two hours to be used by the end of January. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

DONNA HORNER / VACATION DAY EXTENSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the extension of two and one-half vacation days to be used by the end of January. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

DAWN HOFFMAN / CONFERENCE REQUEST: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Assessor's attendance at the Assessor Winter Conference. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. The conference is being held January 23-26, 2018; however, she only plans to attend on the 24th and 25th. Costs will include registration fee, hotel for one night and meals. The county car will be used for transportation.

RECORDER, CLERK, AUDITOR CONFERENCE REQUEST: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the attendance of Beth Warren, Vickie Bozell, Kim Grow and Kendell Culp at the State Board of Accounts Annual Legislation Conference on January 30-31, 2018. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION PERMISSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the signing of a letter to grant permission to the Jasper County Fair Association to use the county owned premises for their bingo fund raisers. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

KAREN WILSON / TRAIN DERAILMENT: Mrs. Wilson was present to give an update about the train derailment. The accident occurred on Friday, December 22, 2017 at approximately 10:30 P.M. caused by a broken wheel on one of the tank cars that led to a derailment of sixteen cars (cars 131 through 145) and six hundred feet of track disturbed. The train was traveling at a speed of thirty-two miles per hour in a forty mile per hour speed limit zone. Two of the cars that rolled were each full of fifteen thousand gallons of corn syrup; however, the corn syrup did not spill out. The remaining fourteen cars had residue of petroleum distillate. CSX was hauling the tank cars for a vendor. Railroad employees arrived on site and arranged for contractors to bring cranes to upright the cars. Soil and air monitoring tests came back normal. The property owners in the area are Larry Steinke and Sue Smith. The railroad also owns a corner lot. The cars are being stored on the railroad property, with some possibly being stored on Sue Smith's property. Mrs. Wilson stated that she is corresponding with Mr. Russ Schaunlaub. She said that he will be reimbursing the City of Rensselaer for the blacktop damage as well as any cost the City incurs such as fire trucks and manpower. She has spoken with Mayor Wood to let him know they can start submitting claims to Mr. Schaunlaub for reimbursement. All sixteen cars will be cut and sold for scrap. Shelter was set up at Van Rensselaer Elementary School with thirty or forty people showing up. Most of them left to stay with friends and family once they were informed that it would be most of the night before they could return home. Two families chose to stay at the Comfort Inn in Rensselaer, paid for by CSX. There are currently two sets of tracks. One has equipment on it and the other track is clear. It took one and one half days to restore the track. There was discussion about how similar this accident was to the tabletop exercise through LEPC that took place at the exact same location. She said the National Transportation Safety Board has also been contacted.

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ANIMAL SHELTER HOURS: Mrs. Porter presented Mr. Culp with the minutes from February 9, 2015 stating the Animal Shelter's days and hours of operation, which are Monday through Friday from 10:00 to 5:00. Mr. Culp will contact Mr. Sinclair to inquire as to why they are closed on Mondays.

MOOLENAAR SUPREME PROFESSIONAL LAWCARE CONTRACTS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the contracts with Moolenaar Supreme Professional Lawncare for the Courthouse, the Sheriff's Department and the Central Annex. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CLAIMS POLICY: Auditor Grow asked Mr. Culp if the Commissioners would like to update the claims policy for cell phone per diems to reflect that cell phone claims must be turned in within three months. The Commissioners said that it makes sense to do so. Auditor Grow will work with Attorney Beaver to get the policy typed up.

There was discussion about a claim turned in by Karen Wilson from 2016 for five months' worth of cell phone stipends for a total of \$140.00. No motion was made regarding this claim.

It was estimated that less than ten employees get paid a cell phone stipend.

HARRY CARNEY / VACATION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve Harry Carney's vacation request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

KEVIN MOORE QUOTE / ELECTRIC INSTALLATION FOR STORAGE BUILDING: At the request of Mr. Carney, a quote was obtained for electric to be installed in the storage building. The quote is \$1,800.00. There was question whether Midway is sub-letting part of the tower. No action was taken at this time.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Craig Stevens. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Marissha Mathew, Dr. Mallory, Dee Vanderwall and Nancy Shull. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Craig Jackson. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD OF ZONING

Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Kent Korniak. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CITIZENS ADVISORY ON LAND APPLICATION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Daryl King, Gerald Grube and Norris Barnett. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CIVIL DEFENSE / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Karen Wilson. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTION ADVISORY BOARD: Mr. Culp stated that he was informed by Mr. Wakeland that they have appointed one too many lay members. Also, Jared Courtney who is the minority representative is becoming an employee. Linda Comingore's position will go unfilled.

COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX CUSTODIANS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Harry Carney and Charles Flick. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

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COUNTY ATTORNEY: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Beaver and Beaver. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

FAIR BOARD: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Richard Maxwell. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

HEALTH BOARD: Mr. Culp stated that there is an opening left by Martha Lashbrook. The replacement must be a Democrat. The Commissioners will look for an replacement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Jean Witherington and Gail Ackerman. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint William Batley. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Travis Gutwein, Anne Cecile Egan and Timothy Donnelly. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Linda Abramson, Eric VanKley and Jamie Mitchell. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

KANKAKEE IROQUOIS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Vince Urbano and James Walstra. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint James Walstra. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

NORTHWEST INDIANA SOLID WASTE: Mr. Walstra made a motion and a second to reappoint Kendell Culp, Richard Maxwell, Rein Bontreger and Stephen Jordan. The motion carried.

PLAN COMMISSION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Justin Rodibaugh and Kent Korniak. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Mary Scheurich as Director and Kelli Standish as Secretary. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF APPEALS: Mr. Culp stated that a replacement is needed for Ronald Mosier. Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Donald Putt. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Walstra will look in to finding a replacement for Mr. Mosier.

PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Richard Maxwell. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

RENSSELAER DISABILITIES COMMISSION: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Merrie Etta Stowers. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

REVIEW BOARD FOR COMMON NUISANCES: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

RISK MANAGEMENT BOARD: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Kim Grow, Donya Jordan and Kendell Culp. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER: Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Donnelly has informed the Commissioners that he wishes to switch positions with Christopher Woodcock. There was discussion about how the part-time position is funded. The County only received the grant money while Mr. Woodcock was in school. The Commissioners decided to hold off on this decision until they can speak with Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Woodcock at the January 2, 2018 meeting.

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VETERAN'S OFFICE / PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE: There was discussion about the request from the Veteran's Office regarding the purchase of a vehicle from the Sheriff's Department. The Commissioners will further discuss the vehicle purchase at the meeting on January 2, 2018.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Richard Maxwell. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

WEED BOARD: There was discussion on whether the Weed Board is necessary. Attorney Beaver stated that there is a statute that authorizes the County to establish a Weed Control Board by establishing an ordinance, but the board is not a requirement.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CONT'D: Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Wakeland recommends Claudia F. Ocampo de Sadowski. She is a Hispanic female and would fill the minority spot on the Board. She previously taught Spanish at St. Joseph College and now works at Purdue. She has a PhD in Spanish linguistics at Purdue. There was discussion on whether or not she is a Jasper County resident. Attorney Beaver stated that the language in the statute for a minority is that "the County Executive appoints four lay persons, one of whom must be a member of a minority race, if a minority resides in the County and a member of that minority is willing to serve." No action was taken. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint William Dunn. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE: There was discussion about why this type of committee is needed. Prompt's bid was lower for 2017 and substantially lower for 2018; which in turn results in less money to the Townships. The Commissioners suggested that the Township Trustees each choose one other person to be on the committee.

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Maxwell stated that he's not ready to appoint a committee. Mr. Culp stated that he'd like to see survey results from employees regarding health insurance concerns. It was discussed that there would be six people on the Board; one Commissioner, one Councilman and one employee from each tier. The Commissioners asked that this be put on the January meeting agenda. Emergency Management Director Karen Wilson asked if any changes will be for the 2018 or 2019 calendar year. The Commissioners told her that 2018 cannot be changed and any changes would be for 2019.

VERTERAN'S OFFICE / PURCHASE OF VEHICLE: Attorney Beaver stated that there's a law that allows transfers of property from one governmental entity to another governmental entity for any amount of dollars as long as both boards pass substantially identical resolutions. However, the Veterans' Council may not be a governmental entity. If they are not governmental and the vehicle has a value of over \$1,000.00, it would need to be auctioned. There was a brief discussion about the Veterans' Council. It was stated that Mr. Donnelly would need to provide the Commissioners with further information regarding the Council.

There being no further business, this meeting is now adjourned. The next meeting is January 2, 2018 at 8:15.

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

